CLAIMS

1.   A method of enabling a client terminal user to access target resources managed by a set of resource managers within an enterprise computing environment,

5   comprising:

authenticating the user to establish a user primary identity;

mapping the user primary identity to a set of user secondary identities;

10   authenticating the user to the resource managers using the set of user secondary identities;

following authentication using the set of user secondary identities, forwarding resource requests to the resource managers; and
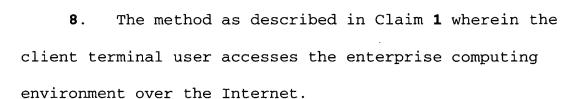
15   returning replies received from the resource managers back to the user.

2.   The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the user primary identity is mapped to the set of user

20   secondary identities by a sign-on service.

3.   The method as described in Claim 2 further including the step of authenticating a trusted server to

the sign-on service prior to mapping the user primary

identity to the set of user secondary identities.

4. The method as described in Claim **3** wherein the

5 trusted server is authenticated to the sign-on service

before the step of authenticating the user to establish

the user primary identity.

5. The method as described in Claim **3** wherein the

10 trusted server is authenticated to the sign-on service

after the step of authenticating the user to establish

the user primary identity.

6. The method as described in Claim **3** wherein the

15 user is authenticated to establish the user primary

identity using an authentication service associated with

the trusted server.

7. The method as described in Claim **1** further

20 including the step of load balancing resource requests

across a set of instances of a given resource manager.

8. The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the client terminal user accesses the enterprise computing environment over the Internet.

5   9. The method as described in Claim **1** wherein the user is authenticated to a given resource manager using an authentication service associated with the given resource manager.

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10. A method for enabling a client terminal user to access target resources managed by a set of resource managers operative within an enterprise computing environment, wherein the environment has an associated

5   sign-on service, comprising:

responsive to a request received from a user of the client terminal, authenticating the user to establish an identity;

using the identity, accessing the sign-on service to

10   retrieve a set of stored user authentication information;

performing a sign-on to the set of resource managers using the retrieved user authentication information; and

forwarding the request to a given resource manager; and

15   forwarding a reply received from the given resource manager back to the user.

11. A method for enabling a client terminal user to access target resources managed by a set of resource managers operative within an enterprise computing environment, wherein the environment has an associated

5　sign-on service, comprising:

having the client terminal user perform a primary logon to an intermediary server to establish a user primary identity;

having the intermediary server pass the user's

10　primary identity to the sign-on service and, in response, obtaining a set of user secondary identities that may be used in enabling the intermediary server to represent the client terminal user to the resource managers;

having the intermediary server perform a secondary

15　logon to a first resource manager using a first user secondary identity;

having the intermediary server perform a secondary logon to a second resource manager using a second user secondary identity;

20　having the intermediary server perform resource requests at the first and second resource managers under the respective secondary identities; and

forwarding responses back to the client terminal user.

12. In an enterprise computing environment having a set of resource managers and a sign-on service, the improvement comprising:

5   a server (a) for authenticating a user to establish a user primary account, (b) for cooperating with the sign-on service to delegate the user primary account to a set of user secondary accounts; (c) for logging onto the set of resource managers using the user secondary

10   accounts; and (d) for passing resource requests from the user to the resource managers under the user secondary accounts.

13. In the enterprise computing environment as

15   described in Claim 12 wherein the server passes replies to the resource requests back to the user.

14. A server for use in an enterprise computing environment having a set of resource managers and a sign-on service, comprising:

means for authenticating a user to establish a user

5   primary account;

means for authenticating the server to the sign-on service;

means for logging onto the set of resource managers using a set of user secondary accounts returned from the

10   sign-on service; and

means for passing resource requests and associated replies between the user and the resource managers.

15. The server as described in Claim **14** further

15   including means for load balancing resource requests passed to a set of instances of a given resource manager.

16. A system, comprising:

a set of resource managers;

a sign on service;

a server, comprising:

5   means for authenticating users to establish user

primary accounts;

means for logging a given user onto the set of

resource managers using a set of user secondary accounts

for the given user retrieved from the sign on service;

10   and

means for passing resource requests and associated

replies between the given user and the resource managers.

17.   The system as described in Claim 16 wherein at

15   least one resource manager comprises a set of instances.

18.   The system as described in Claim 17 wherein the

server further includes means for load balancing resource

requests across the set of instances.

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19.   The system as described in Claim 16 wherein the

server comprises a set of instances.

20. The system as described in Claim **19** further including a manager that manages the set of server instances.

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21. A computer program product in a computer-useable medium executable in a processor of a server, comprising:

means for authenticating a user to establish a user

5 primary account;

means for authenticating the server to a sign-on service;

means for logging onto a set of resource managers using a set of user secondary accounts returned from the

10 sign-on service; and

means for passing resource requests and associated replies between the user and the resource managers.

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